

12 JUL 6113
Assessment for Sept

VZCZCMAY052

~~TOP SECRET~~

73968

NMCC:DDO

DISTR CJCS(ADM MOORER)(06)1-6 NMCC:DDO(01)7 FILE(01)8
 SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY CJCS: DJS(ADM FREEMAN)(01)9
 (010) J3(GEN ZAIS)(01)10

COPY # _____

DE RHMSMVA #9730 1621001

ZNY AAAAA

O 101000Z JUN 72 ZFF-3

FM COMUSMACV

TO RUHHHQA/CINCPAC

INFO RUEKJCS/CJCS

SPECAT-EXCLUSIVE

IMMEDIATE

DECLASSIFIED
 AS PER instructions on document
 Date 3/89

BT

OSD REVIEWED 08-Mar-2011: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

~~TOP SECRET~~ SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR ADM MCCAIN INFO

ADM MOORER FROM GEN ABRAMS

DELIVER DURING WAKING HOURS

SUBJECT: SPECIAL ASSESSMENT

REFERENCES:

A. CINCPAC SPECAT 080232Z JUNE 72 (S)

B. COMUSMACV SPECAT 100955Z JUNE 72 (TS) ★

1. THIS MESSAGE REVIEWS THE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND SIGNIFICANT CONTIGUOUS AREAS, LOOKS AHEAD THROUGH SEPTEMBER, AND SUGGESTS MODIFICATION OF THE 1 JULY FORCE STRUCTURE.

2. HEAVY RAINS BEGIN IN NORTHERN QUANG TRI AND THE OMZ IN SEPTEMBER AND CONTINUE THROUGH DECEMBER.

RAIN HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO AFFECT WESTERN THUA

THIEN. BASIC No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-244-14-2-3

CSA	
CSAF	
CNO	
CMC	
DJS	
J-1	
J-2	
J-3	
J-4	
J-5	
J-6	
SD	
DSD	
ISA	
WH	
ST	
CIA	
01	01E
02	01F
01A	01G
01B	01H
01C	05
01D	06

DECLASSIFIED

COMPLETE MAJOR MILITARY UNDERTAKINGS BY SEPTEMBER.

DECLASSIFIED

IN NORTHERN MRI IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT WITHIN THE
NEXT WEEK OR TEN DAYS THE ENEMY WILL UNDERTAKE
MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST THE HUE AREA AND THE
ARVN FORCES DEFENDING IT. I BELIEVE THIS EFFORT WILL
BE DEFEATED. GENERAL TRUONG IS NOW PLANNING
OPERATIONS BEGINNING THE LAST DAYS OF JUNE TO
RETAKE QUANG TRI.

3. IN THE HIGHLANDS OF MR II, RAINS HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO AFFECT THE TRAFFICABILITY OF ROADS, STREAMS, AND FORDS IN THE WESTERN MOUNTAINS. THE ENEMY HAS SUSTAINED SEVERE CASUALTIES IN KONTUM. THE PLANS IN MR II AS LAID OUT BY PRESIDENT THIEU TO GEFERAL TOAN ARE: (1) PUSH THE ENEMY BACK FAR ENOUGH TO KEEP FIRE OFF KONTUM CITY AND THE AIRFIELD (2) OPEN KONTUM PASS AND ROUTE 14 (3) REINFORCE BINH DINH, AND GET BACK THE THREE NORTHERN DISTRICTS.

4. WEATHER IN MRIII, THOUGH WET AND MUDDY, WILL NOT HAVE A PROFOUND EFFECT ON MILITARY OPERATIONS.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

THE ENEMY IS ADJUSTING HIS DEPLOYMENTS IN COSVN AND IT WILL BE ESSENTIAL FOR THE ARVN TO ADJUST ALSO. IN A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT THIEU AND AMB BUNKER ON 6 JUNE, I EXPLAINED TO PRESIDENT THIEU THAT IN THE CASES OF GENERAL MINH AND GENERAL HAU, THEIR JOBS ARE SIMPLY TOO MUCH FOR THEM: THEY ARE INCAPABLE OF HANDLING THEIR ASSIGNMENTS AND SHOULD BE RELIEVED. PRESIDENT THIEU'S PRIORITIES IN MR III ARE: (1) OPEN ROUTE 13 (2) RELEASE THE 3RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE SO THAT IT CAN BE REFITTED AND THEN JOIN GENERAL TRUONG IN MRI (3) RELEASE THE 15TH REGIMENT TO MR IV FOR EMPLOYMENT IN THE PARROTS BEAK - HIGHWAY 1 AREA (4) RELEASE THE 21ST DIVISION TO MR IV. HIS TENTATIVE THINKING IS THAT THE PARROTS BEAK - HIGHWAY 1, HAU NGHIA, AND LONG AN AREAS WOULD BE UNDER MR IV AFTER THE RETURN OF THE 15TH REGIMENT AND THE 21ST DIVISION. THIS CORRESPONDS WITH THE WAY IN WHICH COSVN APPEARS TO BE HANDLING THE AREA, AND ALSO FITS THE RELATIVE QUALITY OF LEADERSHIP ON OUR SIDE IN MR'S

DECLASSIFIED

PAGE 4 RHMSMVA9730 T O P S E C R E T SPECAT EXCLUSIVE III AND IV.

5. IN MR IV, THE RAINS WILL MAKE MILITARY OPERATIONS PROGRESSIVELY MORE DIFFICULT FOR BOTH SIDES.

SEPTEMBER, AND BRINGING AT LEAST A TEMPORARY HALT TO ANY SIGNIFICANT MILITARY OPERATIONS FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS. THE VIETNAMESE COMMAND IN MRIV APPEARS TO ME TO BE DEALING WITH ITS PROBLEMS IN AN EFFECTIVE AND AGGRESSIVE MANNER.

DECLASSIFIED

6. OVERALL, WE GAVE THE OTHER SIDE A RUNNING START AND HAVE BEEN PLAYING "CATCH-UP" FOR 60 DAYS. THE COMBINATION OF ALL THAT OUR GOVERNMENT HAS DONE AND THAT PRESIDENT THIEU HAS DONE HAS TURNED THAT NOW, SO THAT IT IS NO LONGER NECESSARY TO PLAY "CATCH-UP." IT IS NOW POSSIBLE, WITH SOME MODEST RISK AND CONTINUED US SUPPORT, TO MOVE AHEAD AND TO HAVE SOUTH VIETNAM IN A SUPERIOR POSITION BY SEPTEMBER.

7. THE FOREGOING HAS LED ME TO A REEXAMINATION OF OUR 1 JULY FORCE STRUCTURE HERE TO SEE IF IT

*Within
Casting*

REPRESENTED THE BEST WE COULD DO IN LIGHT OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES NOW PREVAILING, AND THEN TO SEE WHAT WE SHOULD DO OVER THE FOLLOWING THREE MONTHS, I AM SUBMITTING BY SEPARATE MESSAGE (REF B) THE SPECIFIC CHANGES I RECOMMEND: I URGE THEIR SPEEDY APPROVAL. BASICALLY, I WILL RECOMMEND INCREASES TO STRENGTHEN OUR EFFECTIVE USE OF AIR AND NAVAL

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITY, SOME STRENGTHENING OF OUR
ADVISORS, AND REDUCTION IN OUR SECURITY FORCES.

GDS 31 DEC 82

BT

#9734

ANNOTES

CEH

REF A IS 68668

REF B IS 73969

REQ DISTR INSTRUCT1

DECLASSIFIED